

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES AIMING FOR QUALITY IN EARLY LEARNING

## Focus: San Jose

March 2016

### About These Briefs

This series examines how three communities in California are reforming the way early childhood programs work and the way teachers are trained. The profiles give a snapshot of places poised to make significant improvements to their early childhood workforce: Oakland, Fresno, and a school district in San Jose. Over the next few years, New America will observe and learn from these communities, explaining how to improve teaching and learning at a level robust enough to provide a solid foundation for young children's growth and development. We will also be reporting on California over the next year at EdCentral.org. A corollary report, *Not Golden Yet: Building a Workforce for Young Children in California*, published in September, sets the context for statewide policies that affect these communities.

If California were its own country, it would have the eighth-largest economy in the world, according to the World Bank.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, the state has outpaced most of the United States in economic growth, due in large part to the technology industry in Silicon Valley. Located in the southern San Francisco Bay Area, in Santa Clara County, the region is famous as the birthplace of Hewlett-Packard, Apple, and Google. The area's rolling hills are home to Stanford University and to tony suburbs like Mountain View and Los Altos, where Facebook and Google engineers are likely to raise their families. Modest two-bedroom homes in these communities sell for over a million dollars. At the epicenter of all this is San Jose, which is often named one of the richest cities in America.<sup>2</sup>

But community leaders say this valley is also a place where people do not always see what really exists. About 15 miles from Google's campus is the Santee neighborhood of East San Jose, where 86 percent of students at the local elementary school are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch.<sup>3</sup> Eighty-one percent are English Language learners.<sup>4</sup> Families here, many of whom are recent immigrants from Mexico, Central America, and Asia, often have some connection to the tech industry—working, for example, as service staff on the tech campuses or in manufacturing plants. Yet many are struggling to put food on the table.

Some of these families bought homes in far-out suburbs in central California before the recession, but lost them

\*New America uses the term pre-K to include all learning settings for children ages 3 and 4.

in the housing crisis. Today, due to the high cost of living in the region, many are now working multiple jobs and living with two to three families and as many as 12 children in two-bedroom apartments, for which they pay upwards of \$2,500 a month.<sup>5</sup> There are very few formal care centers for young children in this neighborhood and those who know the community well say most kids are cared for by family, friends, and neighbors. Issues such as low-quality housing, gang activity, and chronic health problems all impede children's ability to succeed, and thrive, when they reach elementary school.

But many in San Jose recognize the importance of early learning. Thanks to robust community efforts and leadership from San Jose's Franklin-McKinley School District, things are changing. After five years of work to build partnerships and braid public and private funding dollars, the district is now home to Educare California at Silicon Valley, the first such school in the state. The center is a full-day, full-year early learning and family support program, which is housed in a \$13 million building that opened in September adjacent to the campus of Santee Elementary School. (See sidebar on page 4.) The center is meant to serve as a model early learning environment and a professional development training center.

With the arrival of Educare and new support from the Packard Foundation, the school district is beginning a ten-year strategy to improve the day-to-day practices

of adults who work with children from birth to age five. As Educare Silicon Valley's new executive director Lisa Kaufman told the *San Jose Mercury News* in September, "this is Page 1 of a very exciting journey."<sup>6</sup>

## Supporting Adults to Support Children

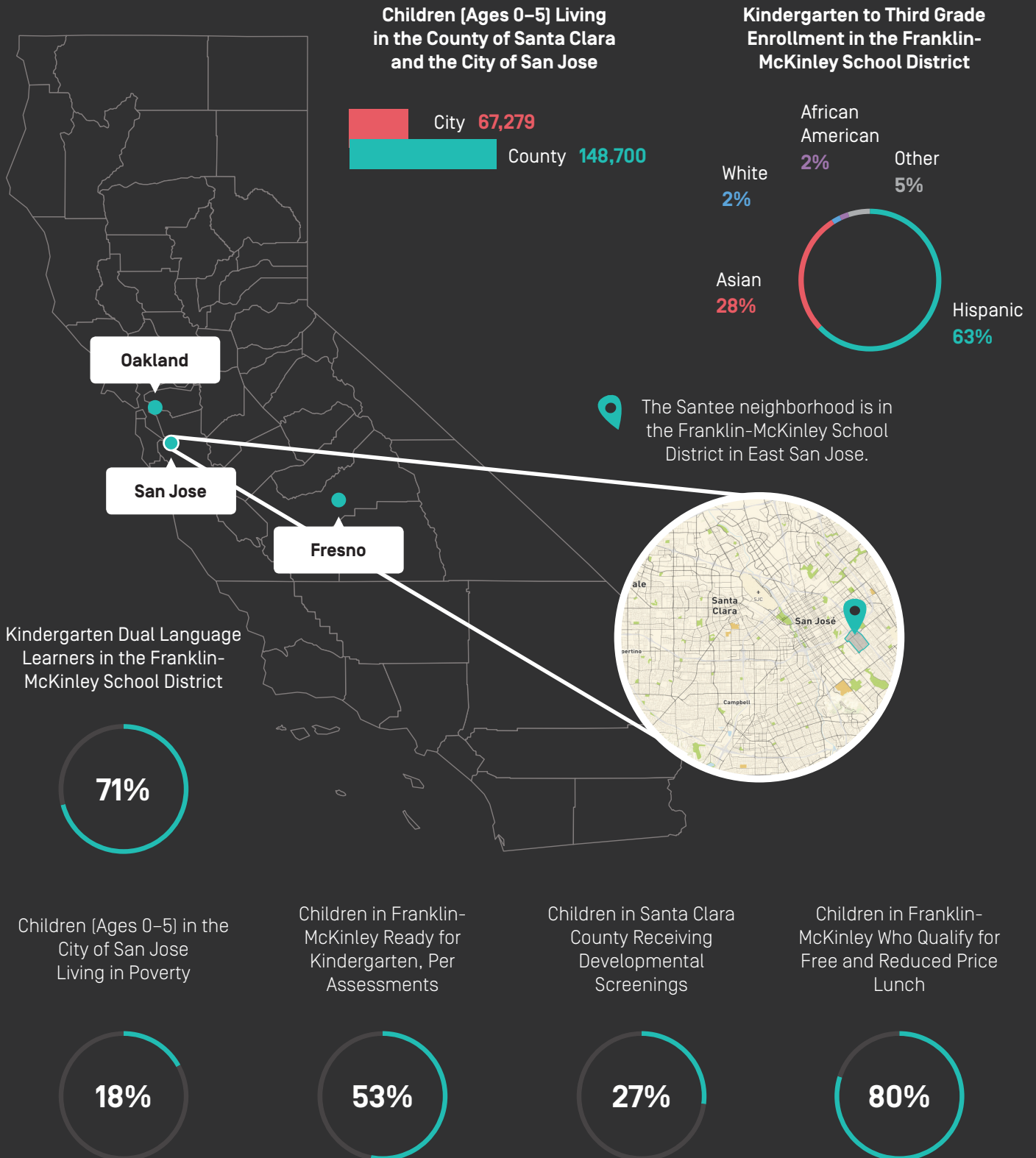
By the end of 2015, San Jose's Franklin-McKinley School District and its partners had the following work underway:

- Educare California at Silicon Valley (see page 4)
- A professional development institute
- A new family resource center
- Implementation of county Early Learning Master Plan
- Franklin-McKinley Children's Initiative
- Map of informal care providers
- Development of a new student data tracking system
- Director of early learning and an early learning community liaison
- Developmental screening for all students



Photo: Franklin-McKinley School District

## Who Are San Jose's Young Children? <sup>7</sup>





## Innovation: Educare

Educare is a national network of full-day, full-year early learning programs for kids from birth to five years old. Educare California at Silicon Valley sits on the campus of Santee Elementary School, in the Franklin-McKinley School District. The 28,000-square-foot facility features 12 classrooms, with multiple indoor and outdoor learning spaces, for children ages zero to five, and a program that focuses on developmentally-appropriate literacy, math, and social-emotional learning. Children from households that earn under approximately \$23,000 per year are eligible to attend at no cost.

The space is also designed as a professional development center and laboratory for educators of all types who care for young children in Santa Clara county, including those who work for other community-based centers; those in the public school system; and family, friend, and neighbor caregivers. For example, transitional kindergarten (TK) teachers from the Franklin-McKinley School District recently visited Educare classrooms as part of their training in developmentally-appropriate practice. This “teaching hospital model” will include a partnership with the nearby East Side Union High School District and De Anza Community College. Students interested in careers in early childhood education can earn post-secondary credits by working at Educare.

The building also houses a resource center for families and the community. The resource center provides training, referral services, and enrichment programs.

In 2009, the Packard Foundation, WestEd, and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund began assessing possible locations for Educare in California, and invited Santa Clara County to apply in 2010. Construction crews broke ground on the center in 2014.

Educare Silicon Valley is supported by a funding model which combines private foundation dollars with public funding streams from local, state, and federal sources.

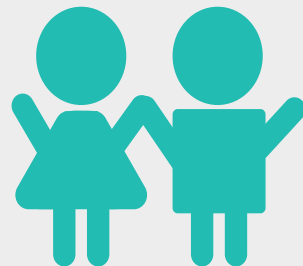
### 12 Classrooms

**4 Head Start Classrooms**  
80 Children | Ages 3 to 5

**2 State Pre-K Classrooms**  
40 Children | Ages 3 to 5

**2 State-Funded Infant Toddler Classrooms**  
16 Children | Ages 0 to 3

**4 East Side Union High School District Child Development Program Classrooms**  
32 Children | Ages 0 to 3



### 168 Children

**Open 243 Days/Year**  
9.5 Hours/Day

**3 Staff Per Classroom**  
Plus 6 teacher/coaches and 3 family support staff<sup>a</sup>



Photo: Educare California at Silicon Valley

# Where Are Santa Clara County's Children? The Early Learning Landscape

As is the case throughout the state and the country, it is difficult to get a clear picture of where all of San Jose's young children are enrolled because there are multiple programs with varying methods for counting whether children are attending and whether they have funding to cover their slots. Some children may be in both a pre-K program (say, for the morning hours) **and** a licensed child care center (in the afternoon). Below is information collected and analyzed by Harder+Company Community Research to help district leaders and others gain a better understanding of which children are being served where. While numbers are not comparable, one can deduce from the data that a fairly high percentage of San Jose's children is not enrolled in either licensed child care or pre-K settings.

**Publicly-funded programs:**<sup>9</sup> Of kids ages 3 to 5 in Santa Clara County, fewer than half are in a district-, state-, or federally-funded program.

29%

Transitional Kindergarten

5%

State Pre-K

3%

Head Start

63%

Other\*

\*These children are either not in care, or in family child care or private school.

**Licensed child care centers (which include state preschool, Head Start programs, and private**

**centers, and some of which take children over the age of 5):** There are 282 licensed care centers and 959 licensed family child care centers in the city of San Jose.<sup>10</sup> There are 607 licensed care centers and 1,895 family child care centers in Santa Clara County.<sup>11</sup> These licensed care centers provide 66,269 total slots for children in Santa Clara County and 27,232 slots in the city of San Jose.<sup>12</sup> District leaders in Franklin-McKinley report that besides Educare, there are almost no formal pre-K settings or infant-toddler licensed settings in the Santee neighborhood.

**Parents and informal providers:** An undetermined number of children are in unlicensed or home-based programs or are with relatives and parents all day.

## A Review of Early Care and Education Programs for Children in California

Throughout the state, children from birth through age five may be eligible for one or several of the following programs; however, often income eligibility, tuition, limited state funding, or wait lists limit their accessibility. For more on statewide programs, see *Not Golden Yet: Building a Stronger Workforce for Young Children in California*.

- Subsidized child care (in centers or home-based), **ages 0–12**
- Early Head Start, **ages 0–3**
- Head Start, **ages 3–5**
- California Preschool Program, **ages 3–4**
- Transitional Kindergarten, **4-year-olds with fall birthdays**

## The Early Learning Workforce: Low Wages

In the San Jose metropolitan area, child care workers are paid on average \$14.24 an hour, or \$29,650 a year. Workers in the California State Preschool program and Head Start fare slightly better, with an average annual salary of \$37,210. Both of these are significantly less than TK and kindergarten teachers are paid in San Jose, which is \$65,690 per year on average.<sup>13</sup>



Photo: Educare California at Silicon Valley

## The High Cost of Raising a Family in San Jose<sup>14</sup>

■ = \$100

Cost of infant/toddler care:



**\$1,900**  
per month

Cost of rent for a two-bedroom apartment:

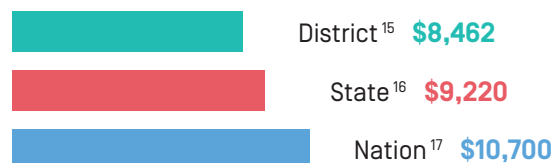


**\$2,500**  
per month

## Per-Pupil Spending in Franklin-McKinley

While data do not exist to provide a clear picture of per-pupil spending on children before they reach kindergarten, data on school budgets give us this snapshot of Franklin-McKinley's spending on students in public schools:

**K-12 Spending:**



Note that the average per-pupil expenditure in pre-K programs is typically significantly less than that of K-12, and the length of the school day varies dramatically as well. The most recent data available on California's State Preschool Program, which offers half-day and full-day services, show that the state's expenditure per child is \$4,298.<sup>18</sup>

## New Funding to Help San Jose Make Progress

In 2015 San Jose became one of three communities in the Golden State to receive new support through the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's Starting Smart and Strong Initiative, a ten-year effort that aims to ensure all children grow up healthy and ready for kindergarten by improving the quality of adult-child interactions across all settings where young children learn and grow. The grants were awarded to the Franklin-McKinley School District in San Jose, the Fresno Unified School District, and the Oakland Unified School District (through the Oakland Public Education Fund). For the first three years the communities are poised to receive grants of up to \$500,000 each year, to help pay for professional development and training for early childhood educators, support for informal care providers (family, friends, and neighbors who are not licensed), and collaborations between public and private systems to support young children, as well as planning and technical assistance.

In San Jose, the initiative's core partners include, but are not limited to: the Franklin-McKinley School District, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, Franklin-McKinley Children's Initiative, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, Educare California at Silicon Valley, Santa Clara County Department of Mental Health, and Healthier Kids Foundation.

**What's going on is transformational—not only for the children who are currently in early learning environments here, but for generations of children to come.**

*— Jolene Smith, CEO of First 5 Santa Clara County and board chairwoman of Educare California at Silicon Valley*

## Stronger Teaching and Caregiving For all young children by

# 2025



Over the next several years, New America will be reporting on what it takes to provide adults with the preparation and training they need to ensure that all young children in California learn and thrive.

**For more on this project, see  
[EdCentral.org/California](https://EdCentral.org/California).**



## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, "California Remains the World's 8th Largest Economy," July 2015, <http://www.ccsce.com/PDF/Numbers-July-2015-CA-Economy-Rankings-2014.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Ali Donaldson, "These Are the 20 Richest Cities in America," Bloomberg, November 5, 2015, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-11-05/these-are-the-20-richest-cities-in-america>.

<sup>3</sup>Santee Elementary School, "2013–14 School Accountability Report Card Published During the 2014–15 School Year," [http://www.fmsd.org/files/user/1/file/\\_2014\\_School\\_Accountability\\_Report\\_Card\\_Santee\\_Elementary\\_School\\_20150119.pdf](http://www.fmsd.org/files/user/1/file/_2014_School_Accountability_Report_Card_Santee_Elementary_School_20150119.pdf); also see Silicon Valley Leadership Group, "What is Educare?" <http://svlg.org/policy-areas/education/educare>.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Melinda Waller (director of early learning, Franklin-McKinley School District), phone interview with author, December 1, 2015.

<sup>6</sup>Sharon Noguchi, "Educare: Care Center for Babies and Young Children Opens in San Jose," *San Jose Mercury News*, September 4, 2015.

<sup>7</sup>Harder + Company Community Research analysis of three-year estimates for San Jose from American Community Survey 2011–2013; First 5 annual report, 2013–2014; KidsCount Data Center; California Department of Education, 2014–2015; Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 2012; California Health Interview Survey, 2007.

<sup>8</sup>Lisa Kaufman (executive director, Educare California at Silicon Valley), phone interview with author, November 4, 2015.

<sup>9</sup>Analysis by Harder + Company Community Research.

<sup>10</sup>City of San Jose Early Care and Education, "Investment in The Future: Strategic Work Plan 2009–2014," 2009, [https://www.sjpl.org/sites/all/files/userfiles/eccec\\_workplan09-14.pdf](https://www.sjpl.org/sites/all/files/userfiles/eccec_workplan09-14.pdf).

<sup>11</sup>California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio, 2013.

<sup>12</sup>California Department of Social Services, State Community Care Licensing, 2015.

<sup>13</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics. Workers in the state preschool program and Head Start are most likely classified as pre-K teachers in the BLS data. May 2014 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: San Jose–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara, CA, [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_41940.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41940.htm).

<sup>14</sup>Melinda Waller (director of early learning, Franklin-McKinley School District), phone interview with author, December 1, 2015.

<sup>15</sup>"California School District Spending and Test Scores: Franklin-McKinley Elementary School District," California Watch, 2011, <http://schoolspending.apps.cironline.org/county/santa-clara/district/franklin-mckinley-elementary/>.

<sup>16</sup>"Education Spending Per Student by State," *Governing*, 2015, <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/education-data/state-education-spending-per-pupil-data.html>.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>W. Steven Barnett, Megan E. Carolan, James H. Squires, Kirsty Clarke Brown, and Michelle Horowitz, *The State of Preschool 2014: State Preschool Yearbook* (New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research, 2015), [http://nieer.org/sites/nieer/files/Yearbook2014\\_full2\\_0.pdf](http://nieer.org/sites/nieer/files/Yearbook2014_full2_0.pdf).

*This profile was written by Sarah Jackson and her California team at HiredPen, a communications firm with an office in the Bay Area working with New America's Early and Elementary Education Policy team. New America received funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to publish these briefs and to enable New America's analysts and writers to continue reporting on California and national policies related to the early learning workforce.*



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